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Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus P.A.  
220 East 42nd Street, 30th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

In re Application of GERBLING et al :  
U.S. Application No.: 09/700,148 :  
Int. Application No.: PCT/DE99/01471 : DECISION  
Int. Filing Date: 10 May 1999 :  
Priority Date: 12 May 1998 :  
Attorney Docket No.: 101215-51 :  
For: METHOD FOR DETECTING :  
MICROORGANISMS IN PRODUCTS :

This is in response to applicants' 07 June 2001 reply to the Notification of Defective Response (Form PCT/DO/EO/916) mailed 31 May 2001. The reply is being treated as a petition to accept the accompanying copy of a declaration as having been originally filed in December 2000. No petition fee is due.

**DISCUSSION**

The original declaration filed 04 December 2000 has been received and placed in the application file.

**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons above, the petition is DISMISSED AS MOOT.

The application has an International Filing Date of 10 May 1999 and a date under 35 U.S.C. 371 of 04 December 2000.

This application is being forwarded to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) for further processing in accordance with this decision.

Bryan Tung  
PCT Legal Examiner  
PCT Legal Office

Telephone: 703-308-6614  
Facsimile: 703-308-6459